APPENDIX F

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA 7/22/98 RAB MEETING

Meeting Minutes Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board Meeting July 22, 1998, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair.

Introductions and sign in

RAB Members Present

Audrey Brown

Bob Chivvis (COE)

Al Edgren

Robert Layne (ADNR)

Irene Mead

P.R. Miller

Tommy Oldham

Ronan Short (ADEC)

Tamie Webb

Tim Webb

Guests Present

Kristina Swanson (D&M)

Chuck Camillo (COE - St. Louis)

Michael Clemens (Clearwater)

Andrea Elconin (COE – Alaska)

Jacques Gusmano (Clearwater)

Chris Floyd (COE - Alaska)

Alfred (Jim) Keetch (COE – Consultant)

Clark Milne (D&M)

Clifton Shields (COE - Consultant)

Gary Williams (COE - Consultant)

Kerry Walker (COE)

Dave Westerman (COE)

Nancy Williams

Agenda Items (see attached)

- 1. Approve meeting agenda Audrey Brown moved to add a couple of items. She explained that Al Edgren wanted to discuss fire suppression and suggested that agency comments be added as a regular agenda item. Motion was seconded and agenda items were added as Items 9 and 10.
- 2. Approval of 4/8/98 and 5/28/98 Meeting Minutes P.R. Miller noted that the 5/28 minutes refer to shrapnel, these were not shrapnel shells, and the minutes should refer to shell fragments. Audrey Brown pointed out that the 5/28 meeting minutes did not reflect the correct date for the next RAB meeting which was July 8th. The meeting date was later changed to July 22th.

Bob Chivvis explained that the 4/8/97 RAB meeting minutes were not discussed or approved at the 5/28/98 meeting due to a small attendance at the meeting. Audrey Brown stated that she did not have a copy of the 4/8/98 meeting minutes present and she abstained from the vote to approve the 4/8/98 minutes.

Both sets of meeting minutes were approved (with abstention of Audrey Brown noted above).

3. Confirm new RAB members - No new RAB members were confirmed. Bob Chivvis reiterated that the RAB meetings were open to all members of the public.

4. <u>Discussion with Former Chemical Munitions Test Personnel</u> – Dave Westerman suggested that the COE let the guests answer questions from the RAB and perhaps go through a typical scenario of how tests were performed. He explained that Cliff Shields would probably know the most about safety controls and procedures that were used during these tests, how the bursts were counted, how damage was assessed and how they knew for sure these munitions went off.

Cliff Shields explained that they performed dynamic tests that were rounds fired from guns. He said that artillery crews set up the batteries and performed these tests, then they would fire off to the side to register in the guns. Then the rounds were fired. There were 4 observers for this. He added that, after each trial, they had to put on protective gear and go out and absolutely identify the impact areas and assess tree damage. He said they would stay in the impact areas for quite a while, to make sure all the rounds functioned. He said there was a lot of observation and logging. Cliff stated that the trials that he participated in never had any duds—all the rounds were accounted for.

Cliff Shields stated that they had very good accountability. He said these were classified trials, so they had to have accountability for each and every round. If they had a dud, the procedure was to stop the trial right there, go in and locate the item and destroy it. He stated that they didn't leave any unknown duds out there. They had safety personnel on site to ensure that they complied with the procedures.

Dave Westerman explained that Cliff Shields was present during the Devil Hole I tests, and that there was another person who could explain the procedures for the Devil Hole II tests. Gary Williams was the Test Officer for the Devil Hole II tests and was the person who wrote the logbook, which has been discussed during previous RAB meetings. Dave asked Gary if the procedures were the same for the Devil Hole II tests conducted the following year.

Gary Williams replied that yes, the procedures were the same. He was an Artillery Officer prior to joining the Chemical Corps and serving at Dugway so he was very familiar the artillery. His notes show that the dynamic rounds fired from the guns, they were either fired singularly, or when a battery fired (six guns at one target) they were fired with a 5-second interval. This was done specifically so that munitions personnel and artillery observers could account for each and every round. That was done and each and every round was recorded to the best of the observers' knowledge and he recorded it in his log. There were no duds on his test site. The munitions that were entered as "unknown" in his log book were ones that the observers didn't actually see the burst and didn't know whether it was an air burst or a ground burst, but they knew the weapon had functioned correctly. The CP was only about 2,000 meters away from the impact point. He stated that they knew they had good accountability.

Cliff Shields added that they would test for damage to the grid after each round.

Gary Williams said that one of the things they had to do was go out with a man in rubber and overgarments and walk through the area to assess the spread and condition using samplers. They needed to know pretty close where those weapons went off to traverse through the area.

Jim Keetch added that the policy was that you do not let personnel go into the impact area if there are any known duds. Safety people had full confidence and full accountability. They would go in day after day and determine where the impact areas were.

Bob Chivvis asked how they marked the impact areas. Jim Keetch replied that they marked the area with paint or taped the area off so you could see the craters and assess the damage to the trees.

Tim Webb asked if that they used the red and blue paint that you see on the trees today. Cliff Shields responded that they used a different color for each trial. One of the objectives of the trials was to see what kind of damage these weapons caused.

P.R. Miller asked what the dispersion time was for the gases, how long did contamination stay afterwards. Jim Keetch replied that, during Devil Hole I, they were out there the next day to do repairs without protective clothing. Devil Hole I tested GB, a very volatile agent, which was gone the next day. VX is a different story.

Gary Williams added that Devil Hole II tested VX, a more persistent agent. When they went on to the grid, they had to wear full rubber. Dave Westerman asked how long VX generally stays around. Gary explained that VX is listed as "persistent" but decomposes naturally in a wet environment within a few weeks at the most.

P.R. Miller asked, if there was any residual agent, would a forest fire take care of it. Gary Williams, Jim Keetch and Cliff Shields replied yes, absolutely.

Jim Keetch added that, to his knowledge, there has never been a fatality during testing of these agents.

Ronan Short asked about the symptoms of exposure. Jim Keetch replied that his only symptoms were myosis, and a slight paralysis, halos around the lights. Upon exposure, the doctor would give the person 3 shots of anthropine, which was the worst part. Now, you must have 2 or more symptoms before you get the shots.

Gary Williams added that they have all been exposed at one time or another, but never at this site, only at Dugway.

Cliff Shields said he was exposed when the wind shifted on a site.

Jim Keetch explained that, between 1951 to 1969 at Dugway, over ½ million pounds of nerve agent were disseminated, involving 15,000 munitions and 12,000 individual field trials.

There was a discussion about VX and Dave Westerman explained that VX is not volatile, you have to come into direct contact with it for it to be effective.

Gary Williams explained that GB is so volatile that in a bright day with currents rising, it is practically useless.

Ronan Short asked for confirmation that people were sent back to the GB testing sites the next day wearing no protection. Jim Keetch replied, yes, there was immediate decomposition. Chuck Camillo added that GB was designed to be dropped on an area and wipe it out so that you could move in the next day. When GB comes into contact with water, it dissipates and decomposes.

Bob Chivvis explained to the RAB members and guests that the COE had brought these gentlemen up to Alaska for two reasons: The first is to help the COE with their investigation of the site, showing where things were located. The second is to answer questions from the community.

Audrey Brown asked whether Devil Hole I and Devil Hole II the only munitions testing done out there. Jim Keetch replied that there were tests done in 1964, called Elk Hunt 1, but they were not done at the Expansion Area.

Robert Layne added that there were also other tests called Night Train.

Bob Chivvis explained that the testing occurred between 1964 and 1967, and these men were there for 2 of the years. Dave Westerman added that they can't speak for the Gerstle River Test Site, but they can discuss the specific areas of Sites 9 and 10.

Kerry Walker stated that the testing that occurred on Site 9 was bomblet testing, and it was called Dewpoint. The COE has been unable to find people associated with Dewpoint yet. Chuck Camillo added that the records show that all of the tests that were done there which contained chemical agents were static tests.

Bob Chivvis explained that there is more uncertainty with the rounds that were fired from the artillery, rather than just hanging them somewhere and setting them off. That's why we discuss the difference between static and dynamic testing.

Robert Layne mentioned that this information is all that anyone has been able to find, and there may have been other tests we don't know about. Kerry Walker replied that the testing stopped in 1967. In 1968, a big cleanup crew came up and cleaned up the sites and put them in pits next to the sites. The state didn't want the sites back with pits full of garbage, so in 1970 Operation Cleanup was initiated and the pits next to Sites 9 and 10 were dug up and hauled everything over to the Gerstle River Test Site.

Audrey Brown stated that it seems like one of the lingering concerns is the possibility of something still existing in the Gerstle River Expansion Area, since it is not possible at this point to state that there is absolutely no danger. There is still concern that the COE can't give the area a clean bill of health. Audrey asked what information was available about the nerve gas casings and whether deterioration of the metal could cause the agents to leak. Dave Westerman replied that they have full accountability for all of the rounds. He said he could

probably get that type of information but wondered what good it would serve. Audrey replied that people might wonder about it, and it would be more information that could be useful. Kerry Walker added that people were concerned about leaking casings of nerve agents that were being stored waiting incineration in Utah. She thinks information is available that they could provide.

Bob Chivvis stated that all munitions were accounted for that were fired in the Expansion Area. He wondered if Audrey was referring to munitions that may have been stored out at Fort Greely. Audrey replied that she was referring to the Expansion Area, whether they think everything that is accounted for is really accounted for. Kerry Walker added that she felt that was a valid point since they have discovered that munitions were stored at the command posts. Her understanding is that some of the testing that was done in previous years at the Gerstle River Test Site was designed to test how well the munitions stored under arctic conditions. These tests were not done by Dugway, but by the Arctic Test Center. She wasn't sure if the information was classified, but it seems worth pursuing.

Robert Layne mentioned that some rounds were disposed of at the Expansion Area. Gary Williams stated that, when he left, he accounted for several rounds that were destroyed. He also accounted, in his logbook, for some rounds that were left for ATC to dispose. He cannot account for those. Ronan Short asked for clarification that the rounds were left in someone else's custody. Gary explained that it was Arctic Test Center EOD. They were back at the ATC

Kerry Walker added that the extra stuff that was demolished was not his stuff, it was left over from the Gerstle River Test Site from 1964 and 1965, and was taken and demolished on Site 10. However, back at Test Site, he noted in his log that he did see additional items remaining at the Test Site. The following winter, the Blueberry Lake incident occurred, where they put four stashes on the lake, tied them up with explosives, and then the lake melted. They were bringing it all together to dispose of everything from the previous years. When he left, they were still planning to do tests the following year, so there was a storage area at the Gerstle River Test Site to keep munitions there from year to year for the tests.

Al Edgren asked that, if the testing were so intense and thorough, why would the Army let you walk away from some shells. Bob Chivvis replied that they were still in Army custody, ATC is the Army. Kerry Walker added that there were 2 Armies up here at this time. The Army from the Desert Test Center was a tenant on ATC property. ATC was doing their own testing.

Ronan Short asked whether the Army controlled the agents; for example, if they had one hundred GB 155s at the toxic gas yard, someone could come with orders to withdraw 20 for a certain test. Gary Williams explained that yes, the Army had control of the agents. At the time these tests were done, they were highly classified—it was a very secret project. He explained that, while he was present, there was security 24-hours a day on the munitions. Ronan asked if there was that kind of security at the TGY. Gary answered yes, without a doubt. Robert Layne stated that, at some time, security must have broken down since there was the Blueberry Lake incident. Kerry Walker replied that those munitions were all

accounted for. They submitted a request to destroy those munitions and there was a sparring match over why and where to destroy them, since they were still good materials. Al Edgren said if the munitions were under 24-hour watch, why were they even on the lake? Bob Chivvis said that the RAB would need to talk to the Army about the Blueberry Lake incident, since the Test Site is not under the COE's jurisdiction. Ronan Short mentioned that it is helpful to talk to these gentlemen about security procedures, since the procedures seem pretty similar from site to site. Robert Layne added that the Army used the areas as one and for the community's sake, it is important to look at what happened on the Test site because it is publicly accessible.

Al Edgren asked if the Army would have taken some of the munitions back to the test sites and disposed of them on their own. Gary Williams said it would be unlikely for there not to be a record. They must have placed the munitions on Blueberry Lake waiting for orders to dispose.

Robert Layne asked if the men were surprised by their incredible success rate during the testing. Jim Keetch replied that only about 1 in 10,000 munitions are duds and that the munitions were very reliable. They were not surprised by the success rate for this particular kind of mission using the types of fuses that they used. Cliff Shields added that the rounds were very reliable.

Jacques Gusmano asked how they disposed of rounds that were duds. Gary Williams replied that the munitions personnel would take the round to the disposal area they would neutralize it. Jim Keetch added that they used C4 to build a cage around the munitions, and would have an implosion rather than an explosion. This procedure destroys all of the munitions. Jim Keetch said that they still find them at Dugway and they found one as recent as six months ago—it is destroyed the same way. Ronan Short asked if the area where the round was found is unrestricted publicly owned land. Jim replied yes, it is unrestricted. Al Edgren asked if a dud was found here, would the same procedure be used. Jim Keetch replied most definitely. He added that public law forbids detonating and they have to guard it, set up a safe distance around it and get approval from the state to detonate it. Jim Keetch explained that the reason they are finding duds at Dugway is due to poor record keeping.

5. Summer 98 ACOE Site Investigation for Contaminated Areas

Dave Westerman said there was not a whole lot to report right now. They went out in helicopters to view the sites from the air and looked at potential tower locations in the Expansion Area across the highway and along the highway. Tim Webb asked if they saw any towers. Dave replied no, they didn't even see any pads. Bob Chivvis explained that the COE is doing an investigation this summer at the Expansion Area to find any trash areas or trash dumps that were created during the tests, so we can clean up any we find. Dave Westerman said they are working on a list of locations, an active list that can be added to. The COE just got the authorization to do the work about 2 months ago so they are in the initial stages. Later this summer, we'll get some soil samples and take a look at some of the sites where we found drums and sample the contents of the drums.

Robert Layne asked how the COE plans to investigate potential disposal sites from here on out. Dave Westerman replied that the COE could use ground-penetrating radar to investigate areas.

He added that many of the areas of concern were former disposal sites that were later cleaned out. The COE will continue to talk to the men that were present during the testing to see what would be best to investigate. Dave added that, at this point, the COE is still in the initial stages and he anticipates the work taking 2-3 years to complete, optimistically.

Robert Layne asked if the COE had distributed copies of draft materials showing the areas of concern. Dave replied that the information is still preliminary, but he had materials for people to look at. (Looking at maps). Dave explained that some of the points may be dropped, others may be added. Bob Chivvis said they are trying to find any areas that they might have dumped anything during the testing. It may turn out that, at most of these locations, there isn't anything there, and they will be marked off the list. Dave Westerman added that the COE's final goal is to have a completely hazard-free Expansion Area.

Ronan Short asked about numbers 19 and 21, Site 9 and 10, and whether plans include a geophysical investigation for the anomalies. Dave Westerman replied yes, it will not only be an investigation but confirmation sampling as well. Ronan said he is supportive of backhoe operations to confirm anomalies (next agenda item).

6. <u>Summer 98 ACOE Verification Sampling SOW</u> (See handout #1) – Bob Chivvis explained that this is where the COE goes out to actual impact areas where munitions testing was done and digs up a number of anomalies found in previous investigations. Kerry Walker is going to discuss the COE contract with Clearwater Environmental, an ordnance investigation company.

Kerry Walker explained that what the COE is planning to do this summer is called groundtruthing geophysical anomalies. She explained that the COE has gone out there and, in the center 4 acres, they've run an EM-61 geophysical equipment across the ground, and identified 2,200 geophysical anomalies on this center area (looking at map). Kerry posed the hypothetical question: what does that mean? Kerry said that on this day they went out and dug up some of the anomalies, and a lot of them are going to be metal fragments like the ones they have brought to the RAB meeting (showed example). Cliff Shields discussed the different kinds of fragments and where they might have come from. Kerry added that this summer, the COE is going to go ahead and dig up all the anomalies. That is the job Clearwater Environmental will be doing. Ronan Short asked how they found the fragments today. Kerry explained that the fragments she was showing everyone were not discovered today, but during an earlier investigation. After this summer's groundtruthing, the COE should have a report that will tell what each of the geophysical anomalies are. Kerry went on to explain that another kind of geophysical testing was done using a Mark 26 going up and down lanes and noting geophysical The COE wants to get groundtruthing for this testing as well, so they plan to do groundtruthing on the lane that had the most hits (90 hits) and dig those up as well. With the geophysical data and the groundtruthing complete, the COE will go into the EECA (Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis) phase of the work, where they have to decide what to do with the entire site to remediate it. The COE will work with the RAB to determine options for the site. The RAB may decide to fence the site, hydroaxe the whole area, or open it up for certain kinds of use.

Robert Layne asked about the 45 anomalies of highest concern and Al Edgren asked if those 45 would be dug out any differently than the rest. Kerry Walker stated that the COE will dig up the

top ones first.

Al Edgren asked if the COE planned to have people escorted to the site. Kerry Walker replied that the COE does not have plans to escort people out to the areas and nobody is to be allowed on the site without a UXO person.

Andrea Elconin said that the COE should have a work plan put together in about 3 weeks, and that September 1, 1998, is the start date for the contract.

Bob Chivvis explained that the contractor will be digging with a pick and shovel, and the work should not impact use of the area. Tim Webb said that people will be coming to this area from all over the state for moose hunting season. Tim said he doesn't want to see the whole area closed, and that the area needs to be posted better for those people who aren't familiar with the area. Besides main access routes, all access routes to these sites should be posted clearly, and signs need to be replaced. Al Edgren and Robert Layne both agreed that the signs need to be replaced before the fieldwork begins since they are over 2 years old now.

Mike Clemens provided an overview of what the fieldwork will involve. Mike explained that he has been an explosive ordnance specialist for over 20 years. He said the first plan of attack is to go out to the small borrow pit that has the drums and do some sampling. Also, a team will perform some survey work to relocate the boundary and set it back up again. They will also be starting the deep excavations, the ones that were ranked. They will start with hand instruments and will have a backhoe available for digs deeper than a couple of feet. Mike explained that each team will have an ordnance disposal technician with them as an added safety precaution. The lane along side of Site 10 has 86 hits from the Mark 26, which is basically an expensive metal detector. The contractor will survey in those items, then come through with a new magnetometer, and flag every hit and clean them out. Kerry Walker added that the new machine will pick up non-ferrous metals in addition to ferrous metals. Robert Layne said that the canisters were made of a different metal. Mike Clemens added that the fuses were copper. Mike said their biggest concern is that his employees will be out on the sites during hunting season. He estimated that it will take about 7 weeks to do sites 9 and 10 (the lanes) and the borrow pit.

P.R. asked what CRREL has to do with this project. Bob Chivvis explained that CRREL used GIS to prepare the maps, the COE needed someone with that expertise to combine all of the information they had.

Kerry Walker explained that the COE does have the exact grid coordinates for each of the munitions that were shot at the sites, and that day they had found a number of the craters that were out there from the bursts. They know which ones burst on the ground and which ones burst in the air, which helps when they go out to do the geophysical work.

Kerry Walker explained that the significant difference between the new scope of work (SOW) and the SOW the COE presented at the last RAB meeting is that the COE had to withdraw the two registration points from the SOW. It was determined that the COE does not have the exact locations of the hits in the two smaller registration areas, 9 East and 10 North, and those sites have to be treated differently from the locations where they know where everything landed. She added that the COE can't do groundtruthing where they haven't done the magnetometer work.

Andrea Elconin asked what the signs were for at the sites. Tim Webb replied that the signs are for people who are from out of town, to let them know what's going on out there. Robert Layne added that the signs let people know they are taking a risk by entering the sites. Bob Chivvis added that they are also for the safety of personnel working out there. Audrey Brown asked who put the signs up before. Bob Chivvis replied that the COE's contractor put the signs up.

Audrey Brown asked if there is a way for everyone to get their own map, to have photocopies of the maps out there, so they don't rip down the main map on the sign. A number of people agreed that it would be a good idea. P.R. Miller added that the COE needs to be careful about what the signs say.

Bob Chivvis explained that there would be temporary signs posted at the sites while the contractor is doing the work. Bob asked the RAB if there are other things the COE should to do to notify the community such as radio announcements. Tim Webb replied that the COE should use the same methods that are used to advertise the RAB meeting--radio announcements and the newspaper. Other people mentioned that agencies should be notified.

Al Edgren asked if there should be any information disseminated pertaining to the cutting of firewood out in the area since there is indiscriminate cutting there. Mike Clemens stated that their people would not be guarding the areas, but they will be asking people to leave the areas where they are working. The contracted personnel will be on the lookout for people in the area.

There was another discussion regarding signage. Kerry Walker stated that the signs on the outside of the sites right now say UXO, and asked whether the signs are working, or whether they need to be more explicit. There was some discussion that the signs need to be newer and need to warn people better around sites 9 and 10. Tim Webb stated that there needs to be signage other than the UXO signs and they need to be placed on the access routes. Mike Clemens suggested using fluorescent orange, temporary signs, spaced at specific intervals, which warn people to stay out of the area. The signs could be moved from Site 9 to 10 when the crew doing the work moves. The group responded positively to the suggestion.

Audrey Brown asked if the contractor would have someone that is armed on site. Mike Clemens replied that they did not plan to carry guns, only pepper spray.

7:45 - Break

7. Status of the Record Review Memorandum – Update from the COE – Bob Chivvis explained that the COE contracted the St. Louis District (COE) to prepare a Records Review Memorandum. This involved finding any possible records of what went on in the area, consolidating the information, and formulating the memorandum. Bob said that the St. Louis District has been working on this for about the last 6 months or so.

Bob Chivvis introduced Chuck Camillo of the St. Louis COE who is handling the Records Review Memorandum. Chuck explained that the St. Louis District was asked to come out and review the records at Ft. Greely and write a review memorandum based on those records. He said that this process created more questions than it answered because the paper trail wasn't

complete, so the St. Louis District recommended that the search be expanded to a national level and that COE try to find the people who were present during the testing. Chuck said this process has been going on for the last 6 to 8 months, although he started looking at records on the Gerstle River site back in the spring of 1994.

Chuck Camillo explained that the St. Louis district has looked for records on the Gerstle River Expansion Area at the following locations, in addition to Ft. Greely: The National Archives at College Park, Maryland (in Washington D.C.); the Washington National Records Center in Maryland; the Center for Military History in Washington D.C.; the Chemical and Biological Defense Command in Maryland; the Army Research Laboratory Library at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland; the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis; the Fischer Library at Fort McClellan Chemical School in Alabama; Dugway Proving Ground Tech Library; Regional National Archives in Anchorage, Seattle and Kansas City; and a search of the Defense Technical Information Center database. The St. Louis COE searched under multiple names, not just Gerstle River.

Chuck Camillo reported that the Records Review Memorandum is close to going final. the Alaska District has their draft copy and copies have been distributed to some agency representatives. Comments are due back by July 31, 1998. Chuck explained that the report is broken down into two main areas, site specific and general findings. Site specific information deals with the written records that were found. This section of the report only presents information and draws no conclusions. The main purpose of the site-specific information was to have accountability for all munitions fired out there. The St. Louis COE has been able to come up with grid coordinates for the munitions fired. Chuck explained that the paper trails aren't complete and there were holes in the information. The second part of the report uses information from former site personnel interviews to help fill data gaps. Chuck said that talking to people who were there helps fill information gaps. The Appendices of the report contain copies of documents that have been declassified to "for official use only".

Ronan Short asked whether the term "for official use only" included members of the RAB. Bob Chivvis replied that the Records Review Memorandum had been distributed to the Community Co-Chair of the RAB, who can show it to the other RAB members. COE representatives explained that the regulations identify "for official use only" as anyone that has an official reason for reviewing the documents. Audrey Brown asked whether the RAB members have an official use, and why couldn't they get the report to review. Bob Chivvis said that the RAB did get the report. Robert Layne mentioned that anything that comes to his office becomes public information.

Audrey Brown said that, if this report contains useful information for the RAB members, can they request a copy. Bob Chivvis replied that he thought the COE could get one to RAB members who want one. He reiterated that one copy had been sent to Tim Webb, and if any other RAB members wanted one, they could let him know. Audrey Brown stated that she would like a copy of the document. Robert Layne asked whether the report (Records Review Memorandum), once it was final, would it be available to the general public. Dave Westerman replied no, that it would probably remain for official use only, and he would not place it in a public access file. Kerry Walker added that, if the report does become public before it is downgraded from "for official use only", it will make it extremely difficult to get any future

documents declassified.

Ronan Short asked whether Wayne Rindlishbacher (at Dugway Proving Grounds) could downgrade the report. Kerry Walker said that Wayne sent the COE's letters requesting declassification on to a higher authority. Chuck Camillo said that he believed that once you compile information and produce a document and get it to the person who needs to approve it, it is a lot easier process to have it downgraded. The COE said they would submit the final Records Review Memorandum to declassification authorities.

Bob Chivvis presented a summary of what's been done since the last RAB meeting (review of handout #2 attached).

Bob reviewed the status of the RAB's letter requesting BLM to change their firefighting policy at the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The BLM wanted a briefing from the COE on what the site hazards were. Bob explained that the COE did not believe any hazards were present in the entire area, only in the impact areas where they plan to investigate further. Bob said that BLM is reviewing the information, and he hasn't heard anything from them yet. Bob recommends that the RAB ask its state representatives or congressmen to get involved if they don't hear from BLM soon.

Robert Layne asked if the COE noted his areas of concern regarding the drums to firefighters. Bob Chivvis replied that he didn't think the drums pose any more of a threat than the rest of the area. There was additional discussion over the concern about the drums and the contents of the drums. Robert expressed concern over limiting areas of concern to just Sites 9 and 10.

Kerry Walker explained that there are ordnance areas of concern and HTRW areas of concern. There are thousands of different areas in the state where there might be a problem but the areas haven't been investigated. Bob Chivvis said that if the COE finds any other items of concern, ordnance or not, other than the ones they have already identified, it will become an area of concern.

Al Edgren said that the sites listed on the handout (handout #1) were brand new and should have been identified in a quick letter to Robert (Layne) as areas of concern. Kerry Walker replied that the COE doesn't know for sure that these are areas of concern. Audrey Brown stated that if the area hasn't been classified as safe, BLM will not take the risk of sending firefighters in there. Kerry Walker said that the COE has already eliminated 10 of the sites on the list (handout #1) and Audrey Brown asked for clarification on which sites have been classified as safe. Dave Westerman replied that the first 7 or 8 on the list are tower sites and some of them don't even have traces of towers left. Robert Layne asked why POL was listed as a contaminant at those Kerry Walker replied that it is standard procedure on cleanup projects to list POL (petroleum/oil/lubricants) as a potential contaminant. Robert Layne asked if the COE confirmed that there is no POL at the sites and the handout is misleading since you are asking people to go out and fight fires in a dangerous area. Robert said that the areas where we know there are drums, they should be listed as areas of concern in the letter to BLM. Al Edgren added that, based on the information in the handout, BLM would never fight fires out there. Kerry Walker suggested a change in terminology to make it easier to understand. Robert recommended that the COE not tell people the area is safe until you confirm that it is safe. Al Edgren added that once these areas are determined as safe, the information needs to be passed along to Robert Layne as soon as possible.

Kerry Walker explained that in the COE's winter report, they will list the areas they have gone over, which areas are clear and which need more clarification. Al Edgren clarified that unless ADNR receives clearance on each area, they will not declare it as safe. Al Edgren said that at some point the department will make a general judgement, possibly opening the whole area.

Tim Webb inquired about prescribed burns. Al Edgren replied that he hadn't heard anything and there were no plans for prescribed burns. There was a plan at one point to do a prescribed burn across the river.

There was a general discussion about the site and the cleanup activities. Key points included that a letter from BLM should be forthcoming, the COE plans to visit all the areas and investigate, and part of the point of the SI is to find out what's out there.

Robert Layne expressed concern over the areas containing barrels. Kerry Walker asked Robert if he could give the COE the information concerning those areas. Robert explained that he had already given the COE that information and that he felt that it was ignored. Bob Chivvis agreed that Robert could forward ADNR's letter to BLM, even though Bob did not agree with the content of the letter.

8. <u>Presentation of Community Relations Budget</u> – Bob Chivvis reviewed the handout on the community relations budget (handout #3).

Audrey Brown said she thought what brought this about was the cost of the video. She commented that the handout contained a total budget, but not an itemized breakdown of costs. She expressed concern that she did not know what the video was being used for and was interested in the total cost for the video.

Bob Chivvis replied that he would provide the requested information.

9. <u>Fire Suppression Agenda</u> – Al Edgren began the discussion with the question of who pays for the bill for the cost of the fire and the property. He said that the BLM allowed fire to escape from Army land and burn state land once UXO was found, and the state paid the majority of the bill. Bob Chivvis agreed that the RAB should ask that question. Tim Webb asked how much the state paid after the fire in 1994 escaped Army land because BLM would not fight it. Al Edgren replied that the state paid more than half of the bill. Irene Mead asked who would pay if houses were burned. Al Edgren replied that it more than likely would be fought over in court.

Kerry Walker asked whether the Army is considering doing a prescribed burn on the Gerstle River Test Site. Al Edgren said it was an issue that was brought up. Bob Chivvis said that Army representatives were invited to attend the RAB meeting, but had to cancel because of scheduling conflicts

10. <u>Agency Comments</u> – Robert Layne stated that signs should be placed at the exclusion zone to give people warning before they even enter the area. He said signs should also be placed on

paths and access routes. Kerry Walker added that the signs should be put out on the highway. Robert emphasized that the state needs to be involved with the cleanup effort.

Al Edgren commented that the COE contractor needs to have a provision in case a fire is started while they are performing their digs. If a fire starts from a hunter, some action will need to be taken.

Ronan Short wanted to congratulate everyone for getting this far. He is hopeful that by this fall, we can put this project to rest. He felt that the approach that was discussed during the meeting should work

Other comments: P.R. Miller stated that, as of that morning, Lt. Col. Michand is the new Ft. Greely commander. Audrey Brown asked that cups be brought to the next meeting.

- 11. <u>Date, Time and Agenda Items for Next Meeting</u> The next meeting date was set for September 30, 1998 (Wednesday) at 6:00 p.m. Agenda items include the following:
- What was found during investigations of areas
- How field work was going
- Discussion of BLM letter results
- Invite Army to attend

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting July 22, 1998, 6:00 p.m. City Hall, Delta Junction, AK



Meeting Agenda

- 1) Approve Draft Meeting Agenda
- 2) Approve April 8 and May 28, 1998, RAB Meeting Minutes
- 3) Confirm new RAB members
- 4) Discussion with former chemical munitions test personnel
- 5) Summer 98 ACOE Site Investigation for contaminated areas
- 6) Summer 98 ACOE Verification Sampling SOW
- 7) Status of the Records Review Memorandum Update from Corps
- 8) Presentation of Community Relations Budget
- 9) Fire Suppression Agenda
- 10) Agency Comments
- 11) Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting

'Verification Sampling' (Groundtruthing) SOW Planned for Summer 1998 Sites 9, 10, & Borrow Pit

Objectives:

The ultimate goal for this site is to reach a status where no further action is necessary to be protective of human health and the environment. The goals for this scope of work are:

- a) Perform verification subsurface sampling (groundtruthing) of geophysical anomalies. This is to verify the USACE conclusion that there are no unexploded chemical munitions at sites 9 & 10. USACE has concluded that all geophysical anomalies are testing debris and expended ordnance waste (OW).
- b) Perform verification sampling at the Borrow Pit to confirm the USACE conclusion that the several drums there are empty or have minimal amounts of solvent which shall then be disposed of in an appropriately permitted landfill.

Although the assumption is that there is no UXO, to ensure complete safety, all operations will be conducted by UXO qualified personnel. If at any time UXO is found on the site, the project will be stopped and the analysis conducted by USACE will be revisited. A reanalysis will be required before proceeding with further work.

Summary of Scope of Work (SOW)

This is a summary of the groundtruthing field work that is planned for the summer of 1998

- 1) Survey in the met tower foundations on Sites 9 & 10 and areas and targets identified below.
- 2) Groundtruth the 18 EM-61 Knowledge-Based highest ranking metallic anomalies identified on Sites 9 & 10.
- 3) Mag, flag, and groundtruth all geophysical metallic targets (~ 4400) to 1 foot depth in the central 400 foot hydroaxed areas squares on Sites 9 & 10. Replace flags on anomalies deeper than 1 foot.
- 4) Remove all near- surface targets the full length of one Site 10 lane. The Site 10 lane to address is directly adjacent to the northwest side of the hydroaxed central area.
- 5) Groundtruth 200 of the targets that remain in the central 400 foot square areas after they have been cleared of near-surface anomalies. Targets to dig shall be identified by the COR.
- 6) Groundtruth all remaining targets (assume 25) in the lane after the near-surface clearance in the lane is complete.
- 7) Excavate and clear 20' diameter centered at grid locations of the 2 'unknown burst height' detonations at each of Sites 9 & 10.
- 8) Excavate Sites $\overline{\text{A20}}$ and $\overline{\text{A21}}$ on Site 9 identified by HFA in 1994.

Site Investigation - Gerstle River Expansion Area

Ž	o. Potential Area of Concern	Source Of Information	Contamination of Concern	Location Description	MGRS Location (1975 map)
<u> </u>	Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greety	Metal Debris/POL	Alaska Highway, mile 1397	965814
'	2 Tower Location	Letter in Binders at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL	Alaska Highway, mile 1401	908845
<u> </u>	3 Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL	Alaska Highway, mile 1402	895853
	4 Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL	Alaska Highway, mile 1408	812902
	5 Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL	Alaska Highway, mile 1414	729950
	6 Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL		965850
Ľ	Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL		911879
	8 Tower Location	ASR/Slide Show Briefing at Fort Greely	Metal Debris/POL		878825
ര	Borrow Pit		Various alcohols/POL	Test Site access road, 500 meters north of Admin Area	975755
_	10 Borrow Pit		Various atcohols/POL	Test Site access road, 1200 meters north of Admin Area	982758
-	11 Borrow Pit		Various alcohols/POL	Test Site access road, 2500 meters north of Admin Area	Need other map
-	12 Grid beside Alascom tower	1959 Site drawing in Alaska District map vault	Debris?	Test Site access road, 1500 meters north of Admin Area, Alascom Tower area.	983761
-	13 Burial Pit #1 (Site 10 &11)	ASR	Possible Decontamination By-Products	Command Post area for Sites 10/11	860817
_	14 Burial Pit #2 (Site 10 & 11)	ASR	Possible Decontamination By-Products	Command Post area for Sites 10/11	859817
_	15 Burial Pit #1 (Site 9)	ASR	Possible Decontamination By-Products	Command Post area for Site 9	790843
_	16 Burlal Pit #2 (Site 9)	ASR	Possible Decontamination By-Products	Command Post area for Site 9	790843
_	17 Burial Pit #3 (Site 9)	ASR	Possible Decontamination By-Products	Command Post area for Site 9	795841
	18 Drum Burfal Site		POL/ lab wastes	North of Gerstle River administrative area, just outside the fence	971753
-	19 Site 9		Metal Debris/ wire/ ground anchors		798830
7	20 Site 9 East		Metal Debris		798826
21	1 Site 10		Metal Debris/ wire/ ground anchors		865828
7	22 Site 10 North		Metal Debris		868833
~	23 Site 11		Metal Debris/ wire/ ground anchors		868807
~	24 Firing Point		Metal Debris/POL	Road 1402	885834
2	25 ASR Point of Interest from aerial photographs		Unknown	Decontamination Sump?	862825
2	26 ASR Point of Interest from aerial photographs		Unknown	NE comer of Site 11	869808
~	27 ASR Point of Interest from aerial photographs		Unknown	Area NW of Site 9	792841
7	28 ASR Point of interest from aerial photographs		Unknown	Area up in foothills	810811
7	29 Possible Tower Location	Speculation from Map	Metal Debris/POL	End of Road 1408	768835

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting July 22, 1998

Since the last RAB meeting

Prepared strategy for checking metallic objects in test areas this summer

Memo signed allowing Alaska District responsibility for verification sampling at site to expedite project

Awarded contract for verification sampling and drum removal

Finalized draft Records Review Memo, incorporating information from meeting with former test officers

Wrote letter to the RAB identifying limited areas of concern to enable BLM firefighting within the Expansion Area

Briefed BLM-Fire Fighting, Scott Billing, on June 16 to explain Corps findings on areas of concern within the Expansion Area

Future Activities

Records Review Memorandum by St. Louis District, Final August 15
Summary of past site investigation activities by Alaska District Draft June 15, Final July 15
Refine geophysical data and compare with test records Draft complete, Final July 15
Prepare Verification sampling work plan Draft July 31, Draft Final August 31
Verification sampling, late summer, early autumn
Remove drums and investigate other waste areas late summer, early autumn

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting July 22, 1998

Contract for Community Relations

Contractor: Dames and Moore

Scope of Work

Plan and document 6 RAB meetings

Sent out advertisements and prepare posters

Prepare RAB notebooks and send out meeting announcements

Prepare meeting agenda

Provide equipment for meeting

Reserve and pay for meeting room

Record meeting and prepare a summary

Prepare a meeting report including summary, handouts, and list of attendees

Prepare three fact sheets as needed.

Each fact can be 2-8 pages long

Make 1500 copies of the fact sheets and distribute them to the community

Update the information repository twice

Collect latest information

Prepare new CD's with updated information and distribute CD's

Prepare 10-15 minute informational video on the history of the site including historical videos, maps, and interviews with regulators and key project personnel.

Total cost \$130,485

Gerstle.rab985d&m.doc

EXHIBIT A MEETING ADVERTISEMENTS

for Ron.

(Nordale Road, I dirbanks; and the Van Horn Facility at 1420 Yan Horn Road, Fairbanks, at various times during the hours of 6 am - 12 am. If there are any questions or complaints regarding smoke from these fire training exercises, please call Alyeska Pipeline Service Company at (907) 459-5707 or Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at (907)

d Facility located at 2 Mile

and 12; Nord

be conducted ~ "oump Stations 1, 5, 4, 5, 1, 7

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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Fort Greely Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public of the current status of

RAB meetings provide a forum for the exchange of information among the public and decision makers regarding the cleanup of surplus property on Fort

will meet on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, at 9:30

am in the large conference room, DNR Bldg., 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK, for the pur-

The Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLISH: Through October 31, 1998

pose of reviewing loan applications, proposed

loan policies, delinquencies, and other agenda

items. The public portion of the meeting will

Public Notice

3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bather oblie Home, 2-Car Garago, Muss Wheeler, Lawn Mowers of Garden Tool Home. Deck, Wahnigan, Satellite Dish 2.5 ACRES of Beautiful Landscaping. and Many Extras! AND...

\$45,000

With a GREAT view!

3 Bedrooms, LBack Family Room,
2-Car Gares, New !ieat, New Hot
Water Fater, Virap-Around Deck, **KEASTER ROAD DOUBLE DECKER**

(13 Acres -- \$79,000

5 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, Family Room, Laundry, Hot Water Baseboard Heat, Nice Landscaping. GREAT LOCATION. CORNER HAYES AND HAYES CIRCLE Sun Room, Deck, 2-Car Garage, REDUCED to \$105,000

LOG/METAL/ROUGH-CUT **CABIN IN THE WOODS**

4.39 Acres, Septic but No Water, Telephone but No Electricity. 2 Bedrooms, 1-Car Garage, Reduced to \$23,000

LOTS, ACREAGE, SUBDIVISION,

Future? Buy Low, Sell High!! Multiple Lots to Sell in: Engdall Subdivision Are You Ready to Invest in Delta's Sweeney Viewridge Subdivision RECREATIONAL.

Clearwater Subdivision **Dubell-Osborne** Clearwater II

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P.O. Box 888, Delta Junction, AK 99737 ***** MT. HAYES COMMERCIAL COMPLEX *****

scheduled for July 28, 1998, and will begin at 6:30 pm at the Diamond Willow Club on Fort Greely. The general public is both welcome and encouraged to attend. investigation and cleanup activities on Fort Greely and to solicit public input on investigation and cleanup for 1998.

Chairman of the Fort Greely RAB is Mr. Steve Fields, who can be contacted at 895-1950 for further information.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Topics to be discussed include a Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties. Meeting for the Gerstle River (Corps) will be holding a

PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall DATE: Wednesday, July 22 TIME: 6 pm

site investigation for contaminated areas and Verification Sampling SOW, and discussion with former chemical munitions test personnel, Summer 98 ACOE a status update of the Records Review Memorandum.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska

Mr. Tim Webb Delta Junction RAB Community Co-Chair (007) 895-1024

007_R05_4147

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a

DATE: Wednesday, July 22nd

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall

discussion with former chemical munitions test personnel, Summer 98 ACOE site investigation for contaminated areas and Verification Sampling SOW, and a status update of the Records Review Memorandum.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

OR

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska (907) 753-5782 Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair Delta Junction, Alaska (907) 895-1024

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MINER

7/21/98

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a

DATE: Wednesday, July 22nd

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Delia Junction City Hall

discussion with former chemical munitions test personnel, Summer 98 ACOE site investigation for contaminated areas and Verification Sampling SOW, and a status update of the Records Review Memorandum.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

OR

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska (907) 753-5782 Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair Delta Junction, Alaska (907) 895-1024

174491-7-21-98

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Gerstle River Expansion Area

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 22nd

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Delta Junction City Hall

The meeting will provide an update on the Corps of Engineers investigation of a former military weapons testing area to assure public safety.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair 895-1024

- or -

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair (907) 753-5782



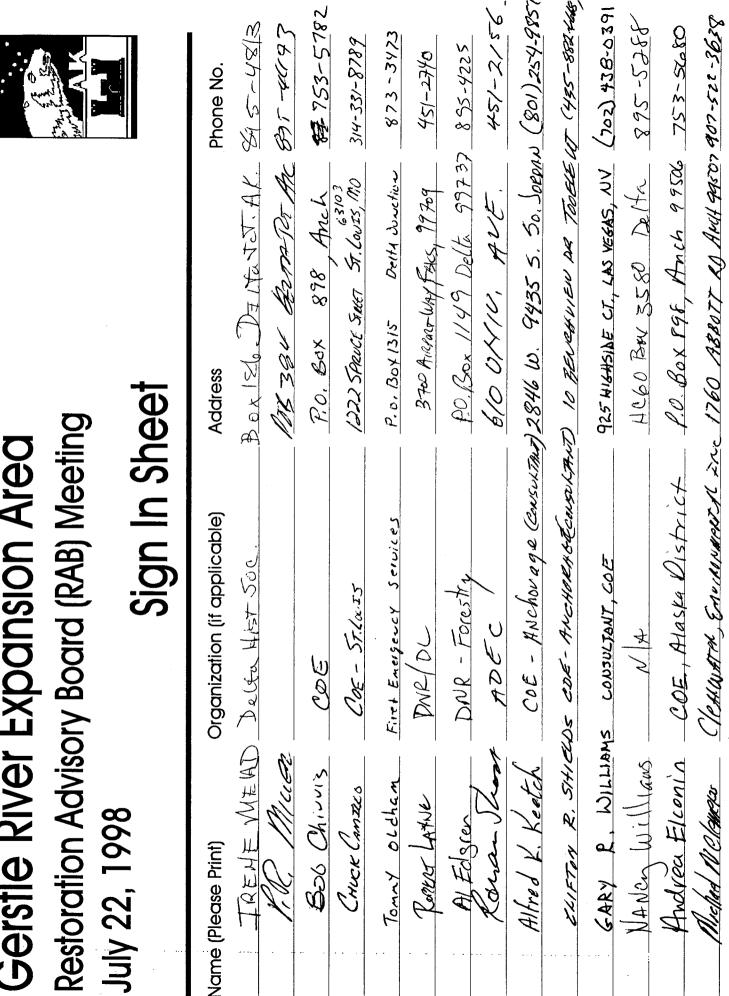
EXHIBIT B

SIGN-IN SHEETS

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

July 22, 1998



Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

July 22, 1998

Sign In Sheet

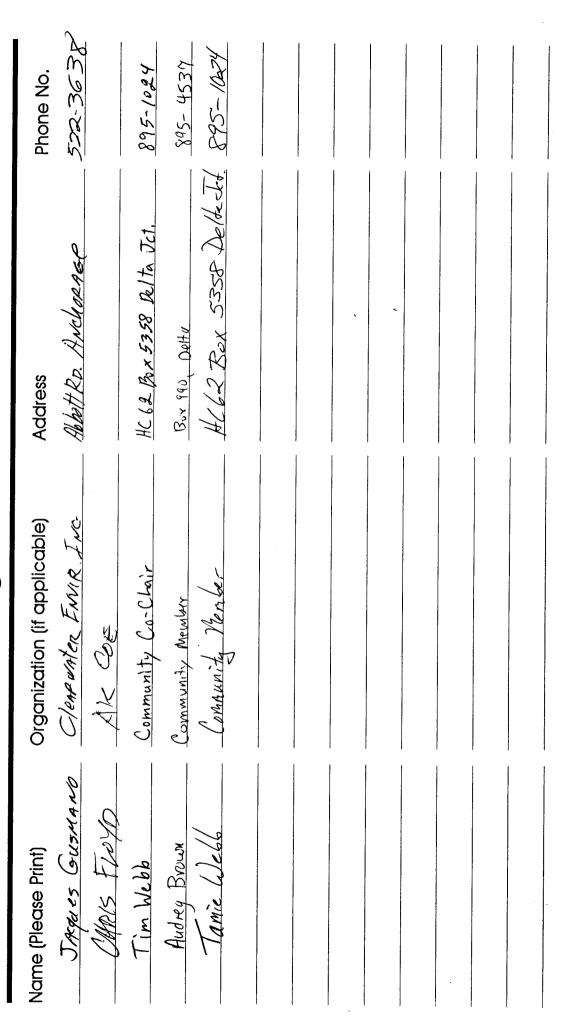




EXHIBIT C MEETING HANDOUTS

EXHIBIT D RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST

RAB Members Gerstle River Expansion Area



9	024
Day Phone	907-895-1024
Zip Code	99737
State	AK
City	Delta Junction
Address	HC-62 Box 5358
, ast Name First Name Organization	GREA RAB Co-Chair
First Name	Tim
Last Name	Webb

RAB Members Gerstle River Expansion Area



Last Name	Last Name First Name Organizat	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Day Phone
Brown	Audrey	Brown Audrey P.O. Box 990 Delta Junction AK 99737 907-895-5297	P.O. Box 990	Delta Junction	AK	78737	907-895-5297
Chivvis	Robert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	8680-90566	907-753-5782
DuBois	Steve	ADF&G	P.O. Box 605	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4484
Edgren	Al	ADNR - Division of Forestry	P.O. Box 1149	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4225
Good	Nathaniel	GREA Rab Co-Chair (Alt)	P.O. Box 827	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-6282
Griswold	Arthur		HC-62, Box 5308	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-488-7034
Layne	Robert	ADNR - Division of Land	3700 Airport Way	Fairbanks	AK	99709-4699	907-451-2700
Levine	Jim	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	8680-90566	907-753-5685
Mead	Irene		P.O. Box 186	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4813
Miller	Thomas		HC-60 Box 1260	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-5157
Miller	P.R.		P.O. Box 384	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4493
Short	Ronan	ADEC	610 University Avenue	Fairbanks	AK	99709-3643	907-451-2156
Webb	Tamie		HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024
Webb	Tim	GREA RAB Co-Chair	HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024

Memo



5600 B Street Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Telephone - (907) 562-3366 Fax - (907) 562-1297

TO:

Distribution

Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board

FROM:

Kimberly Morris

DATE:

February 1999

SUBJECT:

Appendix H, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report

Please find enclosed an update to the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report originally dated September 1997. The enclosed sections need to be either replaced or inserted in your copy of the report. Changes to the report are summarized below:

Appendix H

Insert Appendix H behind Appendix G. Appendix H contains information about the RAB meeting held on December 2, 1998.

The bright pink pages contain instructions on updating your report and also divide each section. Please follow the instructions on the pink pages for updating your report and discard the pink pages when you have replaced or inserted the appropriate section.

If you have any questions, please call me at 562-3366 (within Anchorage) or 800-909-6787 (outside of Anchorage).

Memo



5600 B Street Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Telephone - (907) 562-3366 Fax - (907) 562-1297

TO:

Distribution

Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board

FROM:

Kimberly Morris

DATE:

October 24, 1998

SUBJECT:

Appendix G, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report

Please find enclosed an update to the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report originally dated September 1997. The enclosed sections need to be either replaced or inserted in your copy of the report. Changes to the report are summarized below:

Appendix F

Replace the draft meeting minutes on pages F-2 through

F-14 with the final meeting minutes enclosed

Appendix G

Insert Appendix G behind Appendix F. Appendix G

contains information about the RAB meeting held on

September 30, 1998.

The bright pink pages contain instructions on updating your report and also divide each section. Please follow the instructions on the pink pages for updating your report and discard the pink pages when you have replaced or inserted the appropriate section.

If you have any questions, please call me at 562-3366 (within Anchorage) or 800-909-6787 (outside of Anchorage).